

RAISED UP IN CHRIST

*Ephesians 2:4-7 (niv) But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God **raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.***

TWO KINDS OF TRUTH

There is a difference between our "situation" and "position."

Situational truth describes our current reality – our condition at the present time.

Positional truth describes our condition as God sees it in Christ.

The Bible declares five things about our **position** in Christ:

- We are **CRUCIFIED** with Christ.

Galatians 2:20a I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me...

- We are **BURIED** with Christ.

Romans 6:4-5 We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵ For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly also be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

- We are **RISEN** with Christ. (*Romans 6:4-5*)
- We are **ASCENDED** with Christ.
Ephesians 2:6a God raised us up with Christ...
- We are **ENTHRONED** with Christ.
Ephesians 2:6b ... and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus

These things are not in the future - they are true of us **NOW!**

They describe the position we already have in Christ. This is how God sees us **now** - in Christ.

God has resolved never to look at any believer separated from Christ.

We are identified by God through Christ's perfections and triumph over evil.

THE BASIS FOR OUR VICTORY

God's desire is that what is true of us **positionally** may become true of us **practically**.

Knowing our position in Christ is the basis for us to embrace the ability of God in our daily lives.

God declares that our **position** is both the **legal** and **practical** basis upon which the believer can gain victory and enjoy fullness in our daily lives.

OUR LEGAL POSITION

Our legal position in Christ provides us direct access to the throne of God.

BIG IDEA: When our faith confession matches our legal position, then our situation will begin to match our confession.

OUR ROYAL PRIVILEGE

Ephesians 2:6b ... and seated us with Him (enthroned) in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus

To say that we are enthroned is a vivid way of declaring that we have access, right now, to all that belongs to the throne of God.

We are like ambassadors (*2 Corinthians 5:20*), having behind us the resources of the most powerful of all kingdoms.

EXAMPLE OF JESUS

2 Corinthians 5:21 (niv) God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

If God can justly rule His sinless Son to be a sinner, then He can also rule sinners to be a sinless!

In both cases, the change does not depend upon what we do but what God has chosen to do!

If God can bring guilt and death upon Jesus, He can also bring innocence and life upon us.

God's Righteous Provision

Christ, who had done no sin, was declared guilty, and suffered, and died, so that we who are guilty sinners might be declared innocent, and forgiven, to live free and not slaves to sin.

God's righteous provision in Christ remains ineffective for each of us personally until we vigorously believe it and act upon it.

We need to abandon all attempts to **work** our way up to the throne; but rather, **take our stand there now, by faith, and boldly seize all that is rightly ours as God's gift to us in Christ.**